

WHY ILLINOIS?

THE STATE OF BIG SHOULDERS, WHERE BIG DREAMS ARE REALIZED



Business Minded

#1 METROPOLITAN AREA FOR NEW & EXPANDING COMPANIES

#2 State for Business Creation
Magnet for Country's Brightest Minds
Globally Connected
Thriving Innovation Ecosystems
Exceptional Quality of Life

Magnet for Country's Brightest Minds

200 + HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS STATEWIDE

Chicago is the #1 Metropolitan Area for Big Ten Alumni
Chicago is the #1 City for Recent Graduates
Over 825,000 Midwest Higher Education Graduates Annually
6.6 Million Person Labor Force and 38% with Bachelor's Degree or Better

Global Headquarters Hub

MORE THAN 400 MAJOR CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

34 Fortune 500 Companies
29 S&P 500 Companies
12 Fortune "Global 500" Companies
1,700+ Foreign-Based Companies

Globally Connected

O'HARE – MOST FLIGHTS IN THE US WITH 881,933 IN 2014

1,400 Daily Departures & 90 Million Annual Passengers
Nonstop Service to More Than 200 Destinations
Only "Dual-Hub" Airport System in North America
Within 4-Hour Flight of All North American Destinations

3 INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS

O'Hare, Midway, and Rockford

9 ADDITIONAL COMMERCIAL SERVICE AIRPORTS

Bellville, Bloomington/Normal, Champaign/Urbana, Decatur, Marion, Moline, Peoria, Quincy, and Springfield

World Class Infrastructure

3rd LARGEST INTERMODAL PORT IN THE WORLD

Seven Class 1 Freight Railroads
13 Port Districts & Waterways
3rd Largest Interstate Highway System

Thriving Innovation Ecosystems

\$2.4 BILLION ANNUAL R&D FUNDING IN ILLINOIS

96 Nobel Prize Winners from Chicago Area
275 Digital Startups Launched Annually in Chicago Area
Over 300 Corporate R&D Facilities in Chicago Area
\$8 Billion in Acquisitions & IPOs in 2014 in Chicago Area



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity
Bruce Rauner, Governor

contact us at illinois.gov/dceo



WHY ILLINOIS?

THE STATE OF BIG SHOULDERS, WHERE BIG DREAMS ARE REALIZED

World Class Research and Innovation Hubs

181 FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO INNOVATORS ACROSS ILLINOIS

59 Incubators
81 Co-Working Spaces
28 Accelerators
13 Technology Parks

Quality Education and Healthcare for Families

86 NATIONALLY RANKED PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS

40 Specialized STEAM Magnet Elementary Schools
Northwestern Memorial Hospital Ranked Among the Best Hospitals in the Nation U.S. News 2015-16
4 of the Top 15 Teaching Hospitals in the U.S. are in Chicago

Exceptional Quality of Life

ACCLAIMED CULTURE AND ENTERTAINMENT

More Professional Sports Championships than any other State since 1990
6,000+ Restaurants
1,900+ Hotels, Bed & Breakfasts, Lodges, and Cabins
1,200+ Sporting Venues
600+ Music Venues
500+ Museums and Art Galleries
300+ Food Festivals
250+ Music Festivals
175+ Craft Breweries
120+ State Parks
30+ Film Festivals
50+ Designated State Historic Sites

We Are Your One-Stop Resource


ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Intergovernmental Coordination
Technical Assistance with Site Selection
Regional Collaboration with Key Stakeholders
Custom Workforce Training
Expedited Permitting, Licensing & Other Approvals
Connection to Civic & Business Partners
Potential Financial Support



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity
Bruce Rauner, Governor

contact us at illinois.gov/dceo

PRINTED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS 

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY OF GLOBAL LEADERS IN ILLINOIS, USA

